SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1 of the application, under the title, please insert:

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is the national phase of PCT application PCT/EP03/05876 having an international filing date of 3 June 2003, which claims priority from European application 02100667.1 filed 4 June 2002. The contents of these documents are incorporated herein by reference.—

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 13-27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Despite the large collection of proteases that is active in the gastrointestinal tract, it is likely that peptides that resist further proteolytic hydrolysis in the small [[intestineform]] intestine form a major fraction of the surviving population of di- and tripeptides. It has, for example, been reported that di- and tripeptides carrying carboxyterminal proline residues exhibit stabilities in the body which are up to 3 orders of magnitude higher than other peptides (Ashmarin, I.P. *et al.*; Biochemistry (Moscow), Vol 63, No 2, 1998, pp119-124). Carrier systems specific for the transport of either the free amino acids or the di- and tripeptides are responsible for the efficient transport across the intestine wall. A peptide sequence-independent mechanism capable of transporting quantitatively significant amounts of intact di- and tripeptides has been identified (Doering, F. *et al*; *1998;* J. Biol. Chem. 273, 23211-23218). After entering the blood circulation, the peptides may potentially act as physiological modulators of metabolism. The physiological effects of peptides with opioid, ACE-inhibitory, antithrombosis, antiulcer, antiarthritic and anorectic activities have been described (Pihlanto-Leppala, A; Trends in Food Science & Technology 11 (2001) 247-356; Ashmarin, I.P. *et al.*; Biochemistry (Moscow), Vol 63, No 2, 1998, pp119-124).